

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In re Application of WORLDCOM, INC.
Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 853(b)
for Exemption from the Requirements of
Sections 851 and 854 of the Public Utilities Code
With Respect to its Bankruptcy Reorganizations.

Application 03-08-016
(Filed August 20, 2003)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
SHORTENING TIME TO RESPOND TO APPLICATION OF
WORLDCOM, INC. PURSUANT TO PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE
SECTION 853(b) FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE SECTIONS 851 AND 854 WITH RESPECT
TO ITS BANKRUPTCY REORGANIZATION**

WorldCom, Inc. is a long-distance carrier currently in bankruptcy proceedings.¹ It has filed a Plan of Reorganization (Plan) in the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York seeking to emerge from bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.² It seeks a decision from this Commission finding that Public Utilities Code § 853(b) exempts WorldCom from the requirement that we approve the restructuring and related intra-corporate transactions required to implement the Plan.

¹ *In re WorldCom, Inc.*, Case No. 02-13533 (AJG) (S.D.N.Y).

² The Plan and related documents are available online at <http://global.mci.com/news/infodesk>.

With its application, filed August 20, 2003, WorldCom filed a motion asking that we shorten the time for responses to its application. It claims that under the schedule established by the Bankruptcy Court, the Plan confirmation hearings will commence on September 8, 2003. Because of the support for the Plan by over 90% of WorldCom's creditors, WorldCom believes that the Court will issue a decision confirming the Plan very quickly, perhaps in late September. WorldCom asserts that this compressed schedule, and the need for WorldCom to emerge from bankruptcy at the earliest possible date, renders infeasible the normal 15-day period available to respond to a motion and the normal 30-day period available to protest or respond to an application.

I agree with WorldCom that based on the Bankruptcy Court's schedule, the time to respond to the application should be shortened. However, I note that WorldCom has not yet served its application. Therefore, will require WorldCom immediately to effect service of the application by email and regular mail on the service list this Commission established to consider the now defunct merger between WorldCom and Sprint Corporation, Application (A.) 99-12-012 (copy attached), and on AT&T Corporation, WorldCom's chief competitor not on the A.99-12-012 service list.

Once WorldCom has effected such service, accompanied by (1) a notice stating prominently that I have shortened time for response to the application to 15 days, and giving the due date for such response, and 2) a copy of this ruling, the 15-day clock shall start to run.

Therefore, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. WorldCom, Inc. shall immediately effect service of its application in this proceeding by email and regular mail on the service list this Commission established to consider the now defunct merger between WorldCom and Sprint Corporation, Application (A.) 99-12-012 (copy attached) and on AT&T Corporation.

2. Once WorldCom has made such service, accompanied by 1) a notice stating prominently that I have shortened time for response to the application to 15 days and giving the due date for such response, and 2) a copy of this ruling, the 15-day clock for responses to this application shall start to run.

Dated August 26, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MICHAEL R. PEEVEY

Michael R. Peevey
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Shortening Time To Respond To Application Of WorldCom, Inc. Pursuant To Public Utilities Code Section 853(b) For Exemption From The Requirements Of Public Utilities Code Sections 851 And 854 With Respect To Its Bankruptcy Reorganization on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated August 26, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JANET V. ALVIAR

Janet V. Alviar

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.